

The Protestants and Iesuites vp in Armes in Golicke-land.

Also,

A true and wonderfull relation of a Dutch mai-
den (called *Eus Fliegen* of *Meurs* in the Countrey of
Meurs) who being now (this present yeare) 36 yeares
of age, hath fasted for the space of 14 yeares, con-
firmed by the testimony of persons, both Honou-
rable and worshipfull, (as well English, as Dutch.

Truely translated according to the Dutch Coppy.



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1611

The Protestant and Catholic
Churches in the Netherlands.

[illegible]

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Laus Deo this 27 of Iuly Anno
1611 ftilo magnæ Brytannia.

The Letter.



Beloued Brother: many hearty
commendations, &c. I haue sent
vnto you the picture and lively
description of a Dutch maiden,
drawn out of Dutch colours, &
put into English. The Dutch
report comes along with it,
which I haue translated, as well to giue you
testimony of my brotherly affection towards
you, as to haue my Countrey-men in England
acquainted with so miraculous a power of
Gods worke on so weake a creature, thereby the
more to magnifie his glory. If the newes of
this be not as yet come to London, I wish you
to send it to the Presse. It is not to be doubted
but that a relation so fresh and vn-common, will
be acceptable to our Nation, to whom Newes
are most welcome I know. To confirme the
truth hereof, my Lord Generall, with many o-
ther noble Gentlemen, are worthy witnesses,
who both know this maiden, & haue seene her.
The report is new and lately published: If it
had bin possible to haue gotten meanes (by a
messenger

messenger) sooner to haue sent it to you, it had
sooner come to your hands. But as it is, I pray
receiue it, & with it, a second Peters, as fresh
in the mouthes of all men, and fuller of consola-
tion, by reason of an expected Euent thereof;
to breake into a warres. And that is in Aken,
within a dozen miles of Gulicke: which I pray
you likewise to publish to the common view.

The Dutch Coppy of the relation
of Eue Fliegen of Meurs in the Countie of
Meurs, a maiden (now aged 36 yeares) who
hath neither eate nor drunke, any manner
of Sustenance, by the space of 14 yeares,
translated into English as followeth.



The Omnipotent Creator of the
world, hath not in times past one-
ly expressed the glory of his po-
wer, in his wonderfull composi-
tion, framing and presenting to
the eye of Man all sorts of crea-
tures, both in heauen, earth, and the waters:
But euen now at this day, is the same his mi-
raculous hand working still. Amongst infinite
numbers of which his excellent peeces, able to
bold man in astonishment, this of a Maiden
is well worthy of admiration, of whom (because
the true body and shape cannot in substance
bee sent by and doone the world) this
picture or counterfeit (so neere as words can

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appelle her) betwix her drabone to the life.

This Maiden (byname Eue Fliegen) liues at this present within the towne of Meurs, she was borne in the yeare of our Lord 1575, within a little of that towne at a place called Fliegen-house, wherupon she takes her name: of meane and very pooze parents. So that in her younger dayes (they being not able better to maintaine her) she was compelled to keepe swine for the country people, enduring (by that hard course of life) the bitterneesse of much hunger, as she her selfe confelleth.

Liuing in this extremity of misery, she often (so well as she could, seeing no other wayes nor hope of comfort) made earnest prayers to God, that he would take pity of her wretchednes, and relieue her, from that daily hunger, by which her body was tormented & consumed: her prayers were heard, according to her request. And such compassion tooke the Almighty of her miseries, that in the yeare 1594, her desire of feeding, which in former times she had, grew to be faint, & very small. Insomuch that every 2, 3 & 4 daies, she tooke little sustenance or none at all. From the 4 day she began voluntarily to fast til the 10 day & so did forbear, or rather had no stomacke to meate, the space of fourteene dayes together, which abstinence of hers grew in the end end to such a custome, that shee utterly refused the tast either of meate or drinke, and in that manner hath her body (by Gods prouidence) bene preserved euer since the yeare of our Lord

1597. to this present yeare 1611 (being full 14
yeares) This strange wonder continuing thus
long, drew not onely many people to see her, but
also many tryals to be put vpon her, amongst
which, this was one. In the yeare 1599, the
Noble Countesse of Meurs with her waiting
Gentlewoman, hauing brought this Eue Flei-
gen into a garden, with much importunity to
haue her ease somewhat, so preuailed that shee
plucked a cherry and tasted it, and had no soo-
ner eaten it downe, but that the Lady with her
seruants were in feare shee would there present-
ly haue dyed, shee fell into so sodaine and violent
passion of an extreme sickenes: in the which
she continued a long time, but in the end with
much adoe recovered her health: within a yeare
after the said Eue falling againe into a greater
sickenes, it was held fit (by the opinion of Doct-
ters) to haue her drinke a spoonfull or two of
the thin whey, which comes from Buttermilke,
being sodden: shee made offer to tast it, but
could by no meanes take it downe. At another
time of sicknes, shee her selfe thought she could
sup the broth of a chicken, but no more then a
spoonfull being offered to her, shee fell into a
more extreme fit of sickenes then before, so that
finding her body afflicted by these tryals, shee
utterly abandoned the vse of any food, or nou-
rishment, by the full space now of 14 yeares. In
all which time, through no disposition of the
season or time of the yeare, hath shee bene seene
or knowne either to complaine of thirst or hun-
ger

ger: yet untill her age of 20 or 22 yeares; shee
tooke her food (where by her labour or other ho-
nest meanes it could be gotten) as other people
commonly vse to do.

This her forbearance to take the due nour-
ishment that should maintaine life, hath brought
her body to a weaknes; and her face to an ex-
ceeding palenes.

She saith that every second day an ex-
ceeding cleere light shineth round about her body;
the common light or brightnes of the day, being
nothing comparable to it: which light when she
beholdeth and (as she saith) seeleth shining vpon
her, she hath like wile a feeling on her tongue
of a strange and extraordinary delicate sweet-
nes, the measure of which strengthens her (so
her seeming) for her eyes can behold no other
thing, but only that perfect and immutall light.

The preacher of Meurs (by name, Conradus
Feldhijfen) could not along; that he perswaded
that this was truth, which hee heard reported
of this maiden: so to giue therefore not onely
consent to himselfe, but satisfaction in this mat-
ter to others his friends, who were of his be-
leeffe as he was, he tooke the said Maid (being come
to heare the euening Sermon) home with him
to his owne house, & there kept her in a chamber
by the space of 130 daies; watched day and night
by sundry other persons his friends; candles
burning euery night, and she many being there
yet to be alone without company the space of
one minute; in all which time she neuer tasted

foode, and (at the end of 12 daies and nightes)
 being demanded whether she were then either
 hungry or thirsty, she answered no: so that the
 preacher now hauing by the experience of his
 otone eyes, found out that which he could not
 before beleue, is now enforced with admirati-
 on to acknowledge to be true. To whose testi-
 mony, a thousand persons (both honou-
 rable and of other condition) can witness, and
 there is she liuing at this day, in the towne of
 Meurs to be seene, and spoken with daily and
 hourly, & her manner of liuing being obserued
 with the narrowest eyes, & severest circumspec-
 tion, so that it is impossible, she should be impos-
 sible to delude: and the better to confirme the
 truth of this, a month ago the Magistrate of the same
 towne hath given liberall and ample approbati-
 on to certaine Citties, & to severall persons of
 worth, with his certificate and the seale of the
 towne thereunto annexed: if all these testimo-
 nies of her, cannot perswade and win credit to
 our report, the maiden (of whom it is made) is
 yet to be seene, in the towne of Meurs. For shall
 it be amisse, the better to strengthen this short
 discourse, to set downe in a few lines more, what
 some histories of our present times do mention
 of persons who in the like manner have fasted
 long (beyond the ordinary strength & custome
 of mans body) and liued (as this maiden does
 now) without eating.

FRANCISCUS CIRCULUS (Doctor in the vniuersity
 at Poitiers) witnesseth in his booke written in
 Latine

Lettine is imprinted at Montpellier in Anno 1602) that for certaine yeares, one Catherine of Colberghen lived in Spires 7 yeares together, without meate or drinke. Also within the towne of Conflans in France lying bp^d the borders of Limosin bp^d the river Vien, A Smith (by name, Iohn Balam) begot of his wife (Lucrece Cham-belle) in the yeare 1588, a daughter named Ione Balam, who for the space of two yeares, did nei-ther eate or drinke, in publication of which wo-der, that famous and eloquent Doctor, Iacobus Viuerius wrote certaine verses, which are thus Englished.

How many wonders great before our eyes appears,
Whereof no reason firme to you can shewed be.
Behold, a woman in death, induces a womans yeares (she.
Twice 12 months long to fast, for sustenance none takes
The Lords and neighbours there, to her had good regard,
That dwelt in Conflans towne, on that Viennish fare.
No meate nor drinke in all that time so long she mard,
Her throat so narrow was, her victuals she did spare.
Full strange it was to see, her belly was so flat,
The passages were shut, no entrance there was found,
She voyded nothing forth, nothing at all she ate,
Her privy parts were cleane, thence nothing fel to ground,
But yet she speakes, she sighs, she goes, she feels I know,
Mine eyes are witnes sure, here of you need not doubt:
Which wondrous work doth teach, that nature here below
By God alone is rul'd, who gouernes all about.
To whom all things that were, or euer yet shall be,
Must stoope their lofty tops, their heads also must bend,
Whose wisdom, might & power, God man doth teach to thee
To praise his name for aye: And so I make an end.

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Over the picture of the maiden in the Dutch
Coppie, stood these Latine verses, viz.

*Maisa haec (quam Cernis) decies tot sexq; parvis
Annos, his septem prorsus non vixit annis.
Nec potui, sic sola sedet, sic pallida, visam
Ducis, & exigni se oblectas floribus, Horti.*

Thus Englished.

This Maid (of Meurs) hath thirty five yeares spent,
Fourteene of which she tooke no nourishment,
Thus pale and wan shee sits (sad and alone)
A garden is all shee tooke to take vpon.

The Letter.

Beloued Brother, if you call to remem-
brance my former letters (written vnto
you about the beginning of September
1605) you shall find in the report of this Mai-
den of Meurs, who at y^e time had fasted but eight
yeares: which report I know you heere sleight-
ly entertained, and as I thinke, thought it fabu-
lous and untrue: But before that time, and e-
uer since, her manner of liuing hath beene so nar-
rotoly looked into, that I am now my selfe tho-
roughly perswaded to beleene it, because not
onely I but thousands besides, haue seene her, &
can testify with mee. None of the Princes of
Germany, nor any Noblemen or Gentlemen of
England, travelling neere that way, but haue
bene eye-witnesses of what I write to you, con-
cerning her, many at this present in the English
Court haue seene her. His excellency (Graue
Maurice) who is Barle of Meurs, neuer commeth
into the Towne, but he makes her one of his
guests.

guesses yet he eateth noting at all. Thus much
of this wonder. Now for Gulicke-newes.

The Protestants and Iesuities vp in Armes in Gulicke-land.

At Aken, a great Citie (where the
Citie of the Empire is kept) standing
within 12 miles of Gulicke, in Gulicke-
land did this quarrell begin, vpon the occasion
following.

Since the taking of Gulick, that the land was
gouerned by a Protestant Prince, the Prote-
stants presumed (as well they might) to haue
more liberty then they had wont, and to go to
heare Sermons a mile or two out of the citie
(yet in most Cities in Cleue-land they vse to
preach in Churches) The Iesuities taking note
of this, and the Magistrates being Papists &
faouers of their owne religion, consulted to-
gether how to stop this tide and passage of the
Protestants from swelling to a greater streame
& thereupon suddenly apprehended as many of
the Protestants that had bene at the Sermons
as they could possible lay hands vpon: Great
fines being set vpon some, and the rest (whose
number were not few) appointed to be banished,
which severity & cruell doome was borne with
patience so long, that out of Aken were dratone
into banishment 300 families at least, and that
vpon the 13 day of Iune (now last past) there
were to bee sent from thence into the
like misery and exile a great number more,

The sight of which, striking into the hearts of the common Burgeses of the towne, & moving the to compassio, they resolved to go altogether to the Towne-hall, to haue their poore countrymen, with their wiues, and children staied : at their intreaty, and humble intercession, they did so, as they resolved, and came to the place where their Magistrates were assembled : But no prayers, no teares, no intreaty could preuaile, but all were by the Magistrates sharply charged and commanded to depart peaceably home to their houses : for they knew well enough what belonged to their places, to the state of towne, and what was to be done.

But a number of people (both Protestants and Papists) in a mixed assembly being gathered together, before the Towne-hall, the Papists expecting the event of this new business, the Protestants lamenting the banishment & departure of their friends, kind-folkes, & countrymen, and seeing no hope to find any mercy at the Magistrates hands, some (amongst the rest) burst out into passionate expostulations, crying (out of their true pittie, sorrow, and desire of reuenge.) Is there no remedie, no helping strong hand that can, or that dares cast off a burthen so heauy, and so intollerable as this : Must we behold our fathers, our sonnes, our brethren, wiues, sisters & acquaintance, driven thus like out-casts into forreine and vnknowne countries (out of our native land) onely for hearing the word of God truly preached amongst vs, And
is.

is there none so valiant to step forth and defend
 them and vs from this miserable and tyrannous
 bondage: Can we fight for the same cause (O
 you saint-hearted Dutch nation) against proud
 forreine people, keeping them out at the sword's
 point, and shall we not be able to maintaine our
 owne quarrell against our owne countreymen:
 Can our armes and our weapons, with which
 we haue wonne battailes, not now helpe our
 selues: no, no, replied others, we the wretched
 and despised minority of the protestants are
 few, but the Iesuits and Papists (our cruell e-
 nemies) are many and strong, We cryed others
 in what nobler, in what better quarrell can we
 venture our liues, and, venturing so loose them,
 then in defence of the Gospell, our country, our
 brethren, kindred, and friends: Wee are Gods
 Souldiers in so iust a warre, & therefore why do
 we not arme our selues to maintaine his cause:
 These and such like speeches, animated the
 people, kindled manly fire in their bosomes, and
 so inflamed the, that on a suddain, flying to their
 best defence and guard of safety, Arme, Arme,
 Arme, was cryed, euery one betooke him to
 his weapons, so that within one halfe houre, all
 the towne was filled with armed men, the walls
 giuing as much cause of terror to the country-
 faction as the streetes did, because they were
 as suddenly and as brauely manned too.

The keyes of the gates being seized vpon,
 in to the Protestants hands, an able and stout
 watch was presently choosen, and planted for
 their

their better security: the old Magistrates removed and new put into their places, and (as it often happens in such commotions) nothing was left undone, which the rage of people newly delivered from feare, and having now the bridle of government to themselves, had will to execute, so that all prisons were let open, & all prisoners at liberty to strengthen their side, and fight for them, because they were now rather to do them to deliberate: to the Jesuites Cloisters they went, where they slew some, tooke other prisoners, & those who escaped best went away with much danger of their lives: the Cloisters were defaced, Altars throwne downe, Images broken in peeces, & after many violent outrages, in the end the towne of Aken was surprised and made theirs. And now (convinced to capitulations) the Papists would be content to suffer the Protestants to preach without the towne: but the Protestants on the contrary part, will not now suffer them to exercise their Masse within the Towne, but thrust them out of the gate.

This quarrell hanging yet in a doubtfull balance, is to be decided by the Duke of Brandenburg, (prince of that country) now being in high Germany, what hereafter ensues upon it I shall (beere truth & God willing acquaint you interesting, and be sorry, if this short relation of our Gulicks service, prove not delightfull to your selfe, or to any of your friends and my Countrymen, that may read happily the same. I did not more enlarge it, Fare well from Vtrecht.

FINIS.